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House of Representatives

The House met at 9 a.m. and was called to order by the Speaker.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, the Reverend Margaret Grun Kibben, offered the following prayer:

Gracious and loving God, hear our prayers. We come to You in faith hoping that You would receive our concerns, spoken and unspoken, personal and professional. From the depth of Your infinite mercy, listen to us, and bless all that troubles us.

Then enable us to listen for Your response. In a time when so much noise and messaging is coming from every direction, words of counsel and criticism, voices of guile and guidance, give us reason to pause and listen for Your word as You speak into our lives.

Give us ears to hear and spirits willing not just to hear but to put Your counsel into practice, that this House would be built on the foundation You have established.

And in our dealings with one another, in our interactions with the people who depend on our integrity and faithfulness, may we be quick to listen, slow to speak, and slow to become angry.

With humility, patience, and forbearance, may we reveal Your righteousness this day.

For it is in Your saving name we pray.

Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER. Pursuant to section 11(a) of House Resolution 188, the Journal of the last day's proceedings is approved.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER. Will the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. GROTHMAN) come

forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. GROTHMAN led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER

The SPEAKER. The Chair will entertain up to five requests for 1-minute speeches on each side of the aisle.

200 DAYS OF DELIVERING FOR THE PEOPLE

(Ms. GARCIA of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. GARCIA of Texas. Madam Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the child tax credit's checks arriving to families in my district and across the country.

It has been 200 days of this Congress and 200 days of House Democrats delivering for the people.

Last week, thanks to the American Rescue Plan, child tax credit monthly payments began arriving to roughly 39 million households and covering almost 90 percent of children nationwide.

In my district the child tax credit will benefit almost 95 percent of our children.

In Texas, the families of nearly six million children got their checks totaling \$1.5 billion in aid.

Unfortunately, about 46,600 children in the Houston area still have not received a check.

The good news is this: Nonfilers can still apply on the IRS portal. Caregivers just need their Social Security number or their ITIN number. And it is very important to remember that these benefits will not affect SNAP, Medicaid, SSI, or any other public assistance program.

Madam Speaker, I am hopeful and sincerely believe that we can build back better, and our children's future can be assured.

ACTIONS AND RESULTS SPEAK LOUDER THAN WORDS

(Mr. KELLER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. KELLER. Mr. Speaker, actions and results speak louder than words.

In the months since President Biden first called for unity and bipartisan cooperation, the President's and Speaker's reckless tax-and-spend policies have hurt middle-class families and small businesses. These are the very people they profess to want to help the most.

For the third straight month, the cost of living in America has continued to increase, the highest rate of inflation we have witnessed since 2008.

Compared to last year, gas prices are up 45 percent. Food prices have increased 2½ percent. The price of an automobile is up 45 percent for a used car. Americans know they are paying more for what they need to live every day while their paychecks have decreased by almost 2 percent.

Americans are spending more and getting less. This inflation is a hidden tax and a pay cut on every American family. And the effects of these are felt hardest by our senior citizens and people living on fixed incomes.

The cost-of-living adjustment for Social Security this year was barely 1 percent, but rising consumer prices have outpaced that increase by more than four times.

HONORING LOIS CARSON

(Mr. TAKANO asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

□ This symbol represents the time of day during the House proceedings, e.g., □ 1407 is 2:07 p.m.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.



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Mr. TAKANO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to remember an Inland Empire resident and an excellent public servant, Lois Carson.

Lois was a beloved member of my community and a passionate advocate for childcare, education, and welfare reform.

Lois served as the president of the San Bernardino Community College District Board of Trustees while I served on the Riverside Community College District Board of Trustees. I have fond memories of working with her at trustee conferences where we would collaborate on improving the lives of Inland Empire students.

During her 30 years as the executive director of Community Action Partnership of Riverside County, Lois provided services for low-income residents. Under her leadership the agency ran successfully and received the first public sector Community Action Agency award for excellence in 2005.

The Inland Empire was fortunate to benefit from Lois Carson's many talents, and I am honored to have known her and believe that her legacy will live on in the many lives she touched.

HONORING THE LIFE OF WALTER STRAKA

(Mr. STAUBER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. STAUBER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of the life of Private Walter Straka.

At 17, Walter lied about his age to serve in the Army National Guard. In 1941, his unit, the 194th Tank Battalion, arrived in the Philippines just months before the attack on Pearl Harbor.

After the fall of Bataan in 1942, Walter and his comrades were forced on a brutal 65-mile trek now known as the Bataan Death March.

During the march, Walter was forced to walk in intense heat and subjected to appalling abuse at the hands of the Japanese army.

By Walter's own account, he should have been dead a thousand times, but Walter not only survived this 6-day march, he also survived 3 years as a prisoner of war before returning home to Brainerd, Minnesota.

Once home, Walter ran a successful business, raised a family, and was an active member in his community.

Walter Straka died this year at the age of 101. With his passing, the State of Minnesota said good-bye to its last survivor of the Bataan Death March.

Private Walter Straka is an American hero whose unforgettable story has inspired me and so many others.

Our Nation is stronger because of his exceptional service and courage.

CONGRESS MUST ACT

(Ms. DEAN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1

minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. DEAN. Mr. Speaker, last week marked a year since our country lost a giant and a friend to all, John Lewis.

Republicans and Democrats of both Chambers rightfully used our platforms to memorialize a man who gave so much, and as many say, he was the conscience of our caucus.

Mr. Lewis nearly lost his life at the age of 25 to those on the other side of the Edmund Pettus Bridge in March of 1965 as he nonviolently protested voter suppression laws.

And he dedicated the rest of his life to justice, equality, and protecting the right to vote.

Mr. Speaker, 66 years later we are again on that bridge. Seventeen States have passed 28 laws to make it more difficult to exercise our constitutional right to vote.

We must act.

So I say to my colleagues that stand in the way of the John Lewis Voting Rights Act, would you also have stood on the other side of that bridge?

Mr. Lewis understood we could not wait for those on the other side of the bridge to join us. We must secure, protect, and expand the right to vote for all Americans to truly honor Mr. Lewis' life, legacy, and our democracy.

ADDRESSING THE CUBA CRISIS

(Mr. GROTHMAN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. GROTHMAN. Mr. Speaker, I will now address the Cuban crisis just south of our border.

Cuba is, of course, a very progressive Marxist state. The government runs the economy with all the restrictions of freedom; that means there is no freedom of press.

The State Department International Religious Freedom Report shows numerous violations of freedom of religion as believers in God are harassed. There is no freedom of movement. And now with protests, people are disappearing.

How does the United States respond? There was a Free Cuba mural put up in Washington, D.C., and the mayor of our Nation's capital responded by saying that it was said in the past that Cuba has an education system we should learn from, and the mural disappeared.

I beg President Biden to do what he can to restore internet service so the people in Cuba can communicate with each other. Please don't lift the embargo. And above all, provide a little bit of moral leadership and show that you are opposed to the Marxist cabal to the rest of the world.

RECOGNIZING OLYMPIANS FROM NORTH CAROLINA AGRICULTURAL AND TECHNICAL STATE UNIVERSITY

(Ms. MANNING asked and was given permission to address the House for 1

minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. MANNING. Mr. Speaker, I rise today, ahead of the 2021 Tokyo Olympics, to recognize the Olympians from North Carolina Agricultural and Technical State University, the largest HBCU in the Nation, located in my district in Greensboro, North Carolina.

It gives me great pride to recognize Trevor Stewart and Randolph Ross, Jr., who will represent the United States on the track and field team.

Randolph Ross, Jr., a sophomore, is competing in the men's 400-meter and the 4x400-meter relay, and Trevor Stewart, a senior, will compete in the men's 4x400-meter relay.

Two other Aggie runners will compete in the Olympic track and field events. Akeem Sirleaf will compete for Liberia, and Daniel Stokes will compete for Mexico.

With all four of these young men qualifying, the entire Aggie 4x400-meter relay team will run in the Olympics.

I also recognize NC A&T director of track and field programs, Duane Ross. Coach Ross' leadership has propelled his team forward to success.

Mr. Speaker, I congratulate the athletes and coach on this tremendous achievement. On behalf of North Carolina's Sixth District, I am sending them the best of luck in Tokyo. Go, Aggies.

CELEBRATING PURPLE HEART HOMES

(Mr. MCHENRY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. MCHENRY. Today, the Purple Heart Homes nonprofit is celebrating their 750th completed project.

Headquartered in Statesville, North Carolina, Purple Heart Homes is a nonprofit founded by combat-wounded veterans to help aging and service-connected disabled veterans in their housing needs.

Founded in 2008 by John Gallina and the late Dale Beatty, they established Purple Heart Homes with a mission to help those that have given so much to our Nation.

Whether it is building ramps or constructing new homes, they step in to fill the void in programs designed to serve our deserving veterans.

I congratulate John and his diverse team on their incredible accomplishments to serve our heroes.

I recently met with John and his team, and while they have unique backgrounds that they bring to this mission, they are all united by one thing: They are called to serve.

I congratulate John and his team, and I also congratulate Purple Heart Homes.

□ 0915

THE ALLIES ACT OF 2021

(Mr. CONNOLLY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1